

# FEMA Awards Rhode Island Almost \$13.5 Million for COVID Staffing Costs

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**BOSTON** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending nearly \$13.5 million to the State of Rhode Island to reimburse the state’s health agency for the costs of contracting for public health and epidemiology staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$13,478,747 FEMA Public Assistance grant will reimburse the Rhode Island Department of Health for the cost of contracting to provide staffing for case investigation, outbreak control and other emergency protective measures statewide between July 2021 and March 2022.

The staffing included personnel such as physician consultants, nursing consultants, COVID-19 call center interpreters, emergency management, program management, professional services, and temporary staff including nurses, case investigators, and epidemiologists.

“FEMA is pleased to be able to assist the Rhode Island Department of Health with these costs,” said FEMA Region 1 Regional Administrator Lori Ehrlich. “Providing resources for our partners on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic fight is critical to their success, and to our success as a nation.”

FEMA’s Public Assistance program is an essential source of funding for states and communities recovering from a federally declared disaster or emergency.

This grant brings the total awarded by FEMA to the State of Rhode Island to almost \$632 million to reimburse the state for pandemic-related expenses.

